

Home and Abroad

LATEST TIDINGS FROM SPORTLAND

Edited by Wagner

ALEXANDER PRESENTS ALIBI FOR LOSING WORLD'S SERIES

Phillies' Star Hurler Says He Strained Shoulder in Labor Day Game.

In the January Baseball Magazine, a special number devoted to Grover Cleveland Alexander, the season's greatest pitcher, tells why he lost out in the recent World's Series. His story: "The World's Series was a disappointment to me, a disappointment no less than I had looked forward for five years to the time when I might be lucky enough to take part in the important games. It was a disappointment not so much for the result which went against us and seemingly by a wide margin (for in baseball one team must always lose, since both cannot be alike victors). But I am speaking now not of the showing of the boys who did very well indeed and who contested every inch of the way. I am speaking of my own individual showing, which certainly was not what I hoped it might be.

It was on Labor Day that we played an important series with Brooklyn. That club was right at our heels and Moran and the players felt, with good reason, that a great deal depended upon that one series.

I was matched with Cheney. They scored a run off me in the first inning. After that the game seemed to go into one of those contests where neither side will budge an inch. Cheney, while wild, as is natural with spitball pitchers, was invincible. We made not a single hit off his delivery. In the seventh, as I remember it, however, he strained himself and was obliged to leave the box. It was then that our boys fell on the opposition and drove in their runs.

We began the eighth with a two-run lead. Moran felt that the game was won. I hoped it was myself when Daubert went out on the first ball pitched. But then something happened. I have never been able to understand it, but in some way I strained my shoulder and the muscles in my back. I have the bad habit of getting a blister on my middle finger from throwing the ball. I remember I had a blister on that finger Labor Day and it bothered me considerably. The ball player doesn't pay much attention to minor injuries, but try as he will a twirler can hardly get the same results from his pitching hand when his fingers are sore. I am sure that he can when they are in perfect trim. I know that I unconsciously tried to humor that blistered finger, and, in doing so, no doubt, brought the muscles of my shoulder into play in an unusual manner, so that in pitching a fast ball to the next man up I strained my shoulder. I immediately felt it and I couldn't seem to control the ball so well. When I put forth all my strength, I tried to get the ball over the plate & would go outside. When I cut down a little on the stuff I was serving up to the Brooklyn batters would hit me.

I did not tell Moran, or any of the boys, that I had strained my shoulder during that Labor Day game for a long time after. I knew they had enough to worry about and did not want them to think that I was likely to fall them in the home stretch just when every game counted the most. But I did not feel right at any time the rest of the season. And, although I pitched a fortunate one-

hit game against the Braves, which clinched the pennant, as the World's Series drew near I began to fret a little about my condition. It has never been my disposition to worry about things, but if there was one time in my whole career when I wanted to be in my best form it was during those games. I would willingly have given my share of the receipts to have been able to pitch my team mates to a championship of the world, which is my answer to the oft-repeated suggestion that the ball player thinks only of the money there is in the game.

They said I was nervous during the first game, and I guess I was. The pitcher knows when he is not right, and it is a very disconcerting experience to find yourself, at the critical moment you have been thinking about for months, facing a pennant-winning team with the world's championship at stake, where every eye is watching you, and to know in your own mind that you are not in your best form, not in a position to realize what is expected of you. That thought came to me with over-whelming force in the first contest, and I had to fight against it all through the series. Perhaps I allowed too much for it. As I look back upon the series now I can criticize myself at times because I was too careful, too exact, too conscious of myself. When I have been at my best I have been able to get the ball to break as I want it to, instinctively, with little effort. And I could get my fast ball to sweep across the plate just where I told it to go. The pitcher can always work best when he has to use the least thought and care.

My second game, and the game that was destined to be my last, I had hoped I might feel in perfect shape. I did pitch better than I had done in my first meeting, but unfortunately, from my standpoint, Leonard was pitching even better. I have been criticized, and will, no doubt, be criticized for a long time, in sending a strike over to Lewis in that ninth inning. The critics said, I remember, that I should have known better than to take a chance on Lewis, but should have passed him and taken a chance on Gardner.

Lewis was not a player who was a stranger to me, as a good many of them seemed to think. I had met him in no less than 12 or 14 games in a previous all-star tour and during all those games he had, exactly two hits off my delivery. I had faced Lewis in the box and seen him strike out four times in a single game. If there was a player in the world that I should have felt confident in facing by past experience, that man was Lewis.

We were defeated by a great club, but every game was close, no close that the least little change in the schedule of events would have turned the tide in our favor. Such is baseball, however—a game of uncertainties. And we none of us have any license to complain. But I shall always think of the World's Series of 1915 as a peculiarly disappointing one in that I was unable, through lack of condition, to live up to the expectations of my friends.

JIM RICE OF COLUMBIA ONE OF THE GREATEST OF ROWING COACHES



JIM RICE

New York, Dec. 11.—The merits of the Jim Rice controversy, now causing widespread interest at Columbia university and in collegiate rowing circles, cannot be passed over, for the outsider cannot possibly be in close enough touch with conditions to pass judgment. But one thing is certain, Jim Rice has given Columbia some mighty fine crews since he was placed in charge of rowing there, and Columbia's rowing history for some years prior to that time was not replete with any outstanding collection of victories. It has been asserted that Rice has discouraged rowing candidates from further effort before some of these candidates have been sufficiently tried out to furnish a decisive line on their ability. Yet Rice has fairly, consistently molded together a crew that has been capable of rendering a pretty fair account of itself in the annual intercollegiate regatta at Poughkeepsie. It has been asserted that Rice has discouraged rowing candidates from further effort before some of these candidates have been sufficiently tried out to furnish a decisive line on their ability. Yet Rice has fairly, consistently molded together a crew that has been capable of rendering a pretty fair account of itself in the annual intercollegiate regatta at Poughkeepsie. It has been asserted that Rice has discouraged rowing candidates from further effort before some of these candidates have been sufficiently tried out to furnish a decisive line on their ability. Yet Rice has fairly, consistently molded together a crew that has been capable of rendering a pretty fair account of itself in the annual intercollegiate regatta at Poughkeepsie.

SPORT TALK

HANDED OUT BY WAGNER

ARMS TO CLAIM TITLE

Instead of settling the championship on the field the Washington Glens club of New Haven prefers to claim the title in the newspapers. Manager Coden of the Glens after a conference with Manager Healy of the Remington-Union yesterday afternoon refused to play off the tie tomorrow at Savin Rock.

The Glens put forward the ridiculous excuse that the Arms ought not to use substitutes for regular men who had been injured. Manager Healy pointed out the fact that Moshier, Seeley and Capt. O'Reilly of the backfield were all out of the game for the season; that Silva, the end, had again the knee, and McCormick had a wrenched knee. It would be necessary to get some players to replace these stars. No eligibility rules govern professional football. Teams have always used anybody they could get. For years New Haven eleven imported outsiders for the big games and nobody objected.

After all the arguments about substitutes the Glens manager finally said the game could be played in New Haven anyway, because the police wouldn't allow it. Then Manager Healy offered them half the receipts to transfer the game to Newfield park but again the Glens refused. It is said the Glens had already decided at a meeting not to play the Arms again. So the quest of the championship ends in a squabble. On paper the Arms' record for the season is better than the Glens because the latter have played stronger teams so the Arms might as well claim the title.

SMITH WITH RIBBONS

George Smith of the Stamford Interstate team will be seen in action with the Blue Ribbons when he tackles the New York Nationals next Tuesday night. He will alternate with Roxey Roach at guard. The Nationals have a strong lineup including Johnson, Schmeckel, Duckert, Smith and Brumer.

Yale men who play female parts in the dramatic association plays will be

allowed to impersonate a girl only once a year. The faculty fears continued female impersonations would make the boys too ladylike. That looks like the first step to uplift football at Yale.

Lightweight Champion Freddie Welsh and Benny Palmer of Tucson, Ariz., fought an eight round bout in Memphis, Tenn., last night. Palmer forced the fighting, but Welsh as usual danced out of harm's way and the verdict was a draw.

Harvard players showed good judgment in electing Joe Gilman captain of next season's football team. He was by all odds the best man for the place. Dick Harte, the giant end, who is only a sophomore, did the graceful thing by withdrawing in favor of Gilman. Harvard's last four captains have come from the Boston district but Gilman is from Honolulu.

So strong is the feeling at Pennsylvania against the system that has dragged football standards so low that posters were displayed upon which the poor showing of recent years was blamed upon the "freshmen." Undergraduates want Bob Folwell, the Washington & Jefferson coach, or Bill Hollenback to take charge of the squad next season. Election of the athletic board will be held Monday and the result will determine whether the present faction remains in control or whether new blood will have a chance.

Sandy Piez, a youngster who was taken south by the New York Glens in 1914, has jumped to the Brooklyn Federals. He was farmed out to Rochester last season and hit .255.

Washington & Jefferson has been booked to play Yale in football next season on October 28. The boys from Washington, Pa., have beaten Yale two years in succession.

Harvard has dropped Penn State from its schedule. Although the Crimson beat the State boys last season there were complaints of unsportsmanlike playing by the State team.

Rensselaer Expects Good Hockey Season

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 11.—The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute hockey team had their first practice on ice today. Everything points to a good team this year. Over 38 men are out for the winter sport and nine of the old letter men are back.

West Point is expected to be the strongest opponent, as they have all of their last year's team still at the Academy. Williams is the first on the schedule. Complete schedule as filed today is as follows: December 18th, Williams College at Troy; January 8th, Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst; January 15th, Trinity College at Troy; January 22d, Springfield Training School at Troy; February 12th, West Point at West Point.

There is a widespread feeling among the boys that a 20 cent pocket knife is not an adequate compensation for attending Sunday school five weeks before Christmas.

BAKER DENIES HE WILL PLAY WITH CHICAGO

Philadelphia, Dec. 11.—"The Chicago yarn is a pipe dream."

That is what Frank Baker said over the long distance phone yesterday when he was asked whether it was true that he had accepted terms from the White Sox.

"I have not seen or talked to any representative of the Chicago club, and don't expect to. I expect to play ball in the American League again, and am now considering an offer from New York," he declared.

The famous slugger said he would like to play in New York, but unless satisfactory terms were made he would remain in retirement so far as major league baseball was concerned.

"I don't know where anybody got an idea that I was going to play with Chicago, because I have not even heard a word in connection with a trade of that sort," said Baker. "Somebody had a pipe dream. I have not met any representative from Chicago, and am not expecting to do business with that team."

"I met Capt. Huston and Bill Donovan of the Yankees at Wilmington two weeks ago, and they were just as plain as day. However, I guess I wanted too much, because they went back to New York without coming to any agreement."

"My position, however, is just as it was a year ago. I am willing and want to get back into the game, but I am not coming back unless my terms are met. I don't need to play ball for a living any more, but I love the game. The inducement must be good or I will do just as I did last summer—stay home four days a week and play independent ball on Wednesdays and Saturdays."

"I know nothing about a deal whereby Frank Baker will play with the Chicago White Sox this season," said Connie Mack. "It's all news to me."

LES DARCEY MAY TACKLE JESS WILLARD

San Francisco, Dec. 11.—Jack Kearns of this city, who has just returned from Sydney, Australia, announced that he had taken the manager of Les Darcey, the sensational Australian middleweight, and will bring him to this country early next spring.

Darcey meets Eddie McGoorty in Sydney, Dec. 16. Kearns says he will send Darcey against Mike Gibbons and then against Jess Willard, if Willard is willing to risk his title.

ELEVEN TEAMS IN THE AS SIX DAY RACE NEARS CLOSE

New York, Dec. 11.—Eleven teams are still plodding along in the six-day race at Madison Square Garden, tied for the lead in the gruelling 142-hour grind. Another team, the Sull-Anderson combination, is six laps in the rear. The frequent sight of \$10 bills, offered by enthusiastic spectators, aroused the cyclists and kept them 15 miles ahead of the record.

The Garden was jammed with spectators impatiently waiting for the riders to tangle themselves up in a "jam." The contestants were a sore and tired lot last night, relying on stimulants and frequent meals to keep them going. The bandages and plaster of the men hide the cuts and scratches received in the many spills of the week. McNamara and Watt-hour are showing the strain more than the others, while the surprise of the race is furnished by the two youngsters, Eaton and Madden, the Newark lads. They are the freshest looking riders in the race.

The bicycle fans are already picking their favorites to win the big money prize of \$1,500 tonight. Eggs and Dupuy are unusually popular with the crowd, Grenda and Hill have their followers, while Drobach and Corry also have a strong chance to win.

New York, Dec. 11.—The 11 leading teams in the six day race had covered 2,508 miles and seven laps at 8 o'clock this morning. The 12th hour, bettering the record made by Cameron and Kaiser in 1914 by two miles and three laps.

HOPKINS DECLINES TO BUY CLEVELAND

Cleveland, Dec. 11.—That Ben Johnson, president of the American League, will be forced to return to Cleveland within a day or so is indicated by the refusal of Ben Hopkins of this city to become associated in the ownership of the Indians, according to an announcement issued last night.

Hopkins seriously considered coming to the rescue of the American League in Cleveland, but withheld his promise to do so until yesterday, when he decided that his other business interests take up so much of his time that he would be unable to give the Indians the attention that was necessary to make the venture a financial success.

Hopkins, a young and very successful business man, is a most ardent fan. When Johnson left Cleveland yesterday he announced that he might be back within a few days. However, he did not admit so his actions had to be governed by the definite answer he received from Hopkins. Now that Hopkins has removed himself from consideration, the League executive must seek another Moses.

PRINCETON TEAM HAS BEST OUTLOOK FOR NEXT SEASON

Smith of International League Most Consistent Outfielder—Other Sport Comment.

New York, Dec. 11.—According to the official averages of more than 20 of the leading major and minor leagues Fred Smith, of the International League, was the most consistent outfielder of the past season. Smith, who played left field for the Rochester and Montreal clubs during the season, had the following record:

Club	P.C.
National	Wilson
American	Illich
International	Smith
New York State	Wagner
Southern	Northern
Central	Eddington
Texas	James
Virginia	Gray
Canadian	Shaughnessy
South Atlantic	Ezell
Ohio State	Nutter
Interstate	Brooks
Thru I.	O'Brien
Northern	Brokaw
Pacific Coast	Kane

1915 figured in 108 games with a perfect average, having 217 putouts, 12 assists and no errors. His nearest competitor for first place honors was Eddington, of the Central League, who fielded .990 in 123 games. The leading outfielders in the associations which have published their averages to date, are as follows:

Club	P.C.
St. Louis	.984
New York	.981
Roch. & Montreal	.979
Utica	.982
Mobile	.985
Grand Rapids	.990
Waco	.982
Davenport	.978
Rocky Mountain	.978
Ottawa	.988
Augusta	.982
Charleston	.983
Hornell	.984
Dayton	.974
Virginia	.988
Vernon	.984

Of the four leading universities of the east, Princeton appears to have the best football prospects for 1916.

Coach "Speedy" Rush will have an excellent squad of variety and first class material to make the Tiger's gridiron campaign. Princeton loses nine players out of a squad of about forty by graduation; Harvard sixteen out of forty; Cornell sixteen out of thirty and Yale thirteen out of some thirty.

In actual points lost Cornell is a heavy sufferer for 216 out of a total score of 287 will be lost as a result of the passing of close to half of the leading players and positions. In the Princeton campaign Princeton loses 162 points for the Ithaca eleven this season. Harvard loses 107 points out of 144 including Capt. Mahan who led the squad in scoring with 71 points to his credit. Princeton will drop thirty-two points out of 136, Yale being the heaviest sufferer to be graduated. At Yale thirty-four points will be lost by graduation in addition to fourteen by the 1915 barring of Le Gore, out of a total of 48 points.

A comparison of the world's series and major league pitching averages show that Alexander, Shore and Foster did not deviate, to any extent, in the championship series. Alexander, in the championship series, scored 162 points for the Ithaca eleven this season. Harvard loses 107 points out of 144 including Capt. Mahan who led the squad in scoring with 71 points to his credit. Princeton will drop thirty-two points out of 136, Yale being the heaviest sufferer to be graduated. At Yale thirty-four points will be lost by graduation in addition to fourteen by the 1915 barring of Le Gore, out of a total of 48 points.

Shore, who was third among the American League pitchers ranked for the past season, had an average of 1.64 for the season. In the title series he pitched two games, losing the first and winning the second with a total of four earned runs charged against him. As both contests were nine inning games his record for the World's Series was 20.00 in two games. Foster also figured in two games for the Red Sox defeating the Phillies both times, the total earned runs made off his delivery being four. As a result his average for the series was also 2.00 as against 2.12 for the entire season of league play.

Rowing authorities in charge of the Poughkeepsie and New London intercollegiate regatta announced that there will be no change in the program for the 1916 races either in the colleges represented or the distance of the contests. Yale and Harvard will meet in their annual four mile coxed pair race on Friday, June 23, while the Poughkeepsie regatta will be held on Saturday, June 17.

Cornell, Pennsylvania, Syracuse, Columbia and probably the winning college crew in the Pacific Coast intercollegiate regatta will make up the field. The officers of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association state that they are not affiliated with the American Intercollegiate Rowing Association, which is working for an intercollegiate regatta along the lines of the English Henley.

A new game, which is a combination of football and basketball, is being tried out at Cornell. "Gridiron" is the name of the new sport which has been invented by Professor C. V. P. Young. It is played with a rugby football on the regular gridiron, by teams of eleven men, but has some likeness to basketball. Running with the ball for more than five yards is illegal, tackling below the waist is forbidden, and frequent passing of the ball is encouraged. The game may be developed to take the place of soccer in collegiate sport at Cornell.

The letter written by President James B. Gaffney, of the Boston National League Club, to each player on the Braves' payroll informing them that he will not permit any form of rowdiness by the members of the club at the coming annual meeting and several others are understood to favor similar action in their own clubs. There has been a marked improvement in the deportment of the big league players on the diamond during the past few years but some of the magnates believe that there is still room for betterment in this respect. Professional baseball has not traveled a path of roses in recent seasons and the club owners are earnest advocates of any move to increase its popularity. To conserve the keen competitive spirit of the game and yet eliminate umpire balking, disputing of decisions, loud roars among the players, similar abuses and

playing delays will be the subject of general discussion at the meeting of the league.

Those closely connected with major league baseball are looking forward to the annual meeting of the National League to be held in New York City next Tuesday, with more than the usual interest. There are vague whisperings of efforts to be made toward peace between the independent and organized interests and of several big trades by which it is hoped to strengthen several clubs in the senior circuit.

The proposed invasion of Greater New York by another Federal League club has stirred the local club owners in major league circles to a realization that their teams must be built up if a real fight for the fans' patronage developed in 1916. Should the Federal League place a team on Manhattan Island there will be five clubs representing three leagues all playing in the greater city of some 5,000,000 inhabitants.

At the close of the 1915 season there were four clubs in existence, the National League was represented by the Giants in New York borough and the Superbas in Brooklyn. The New York Americans, playing on the grounds of the Giants, were the American League banner bearers while the Federal League was represented by the Brooklyn Superbas holding forth in a new baseball stadium on the site of the former Brooklyn Superbas park.

Many keen observers of the recent trend of baseball affairs hold the opinion that New York, big as it is, will not support five clubs with the unavoidable conflict in playing dates and division of interest. For this reason the club owners are anxious to holdings or some form of compromise to be announced at or following the meetings of the National and American Leagues.

TRINITY MAN IN FAVOR OF SUMMER BALL

New Haven, Dec. 11.—Prof. Henry Perkins of Trinity College Thursday discussed in the Yale Daily News the George Brickley case and the college eligibility situation in detail. He believes that any athlete whose standing in college is questioned should be allowed to compete in athletics and he favors allowing the students to play summer baseball for money, if they wish. He said:

"Unquestionably the ideal situation in athletics would be to have every man play his game for the love of it, and never for pecuniary gain. But, with human nature as it is, we have to face the facts in dealing with athletic conditions as they exist today in our American colleges.

"In my opinion it is better to have no eligibility rule whatsoever, than to have a rule which is likely to be evaded and to generate a spirit of hypocrisy. The present eligibility rule at Yale seems to me too harsh when it is carried out to its logical extreme. In the first place it bars a man from earning an honest and honorable means of livelihood, and secondly, because it does place him in a position where he sometimes has to play the hypocrite.

"With the present ruling in force at Yale, the committee is of course justified in declaring the five players ineligible. But I hope to see the time come when the colleges can agree on a modification of the eligibility rules so that a man who is enrolled as a bona fide student can secure profit of necessary financial means by playing summer baseball for money, if they wish.

"And by this I mean that he be entitled to play on teams that are not members of any of the major or minor leagues. For it is these last mentioned leagues which really place the stamp of professionalism on the career and conduct of a man. If we are unable to find a rule that cannot be evaded, we ought to make a concession allowing college men to play on the smaller of these less professional teams."

Bridgeport City to Take on Farr Alpaca

The Bridgeport City soccer team will meet the Farr Alpaca of Holyoke tomorrow afternoon at the Aerodrome and the second round of National Challenge Cup competition. Heppstall, who has been out of the game for two weeks, will be back in the lineup and Waite will replace Griffin on the right.

NAME GILMAN TO ANOTHER MATCH CAPTAIN HARVARD FOOTBALL ELEVEN

Cambridge, Dec. 11.—Joseph Atherton Gilman of Honolulu, left tackle, was unanimously elected captain of the 1916 Harvard football team yesterday afternoon when the 34 "H" men gathered to be photographed. The names of Gilman and Richard Harte of Philadelphia, right tackle, were placed in nomination but the latter withdrew, giving Gilman a clear field.

The new Harvard leader is 23 years old, weighs 181 pounds and is six feet one inch tall. He prepared at Exeter Academy and Harvard with the class of 1916, being a member of the freshman team which was captained by Eddie Mahan.

He made the varsity in his sophomore year, but a scholastic handicap forced him to stay out of college athletics last year. Gilman was a practically unanimous choice for All-American tackle this fall. He is an excellent swimmer, a good oarsman and an all around athlete.

DUNDEE WINNER OVER MAT WELLS

New Haven, Dec. 11.—Johnny Dundee of New York, was given the decision over Mat Wells at the end of their twelve-round fight at the Italian-Riverside A. C. here last night. The contest was one of the fastest and cleverest ever held in this city. Both men showed remarkable skill, each blocking and countering with wonderful speed.

The decision, rendered by Referee Dave Fitzgerald, was a popular one, and was received with great acclamation by the crowd, which was made up largely of Italians, Dundee's countrymen. While the contest was exceedingly close, there never was any question of Dundee's superiority under the conditions.

Each man weighed in under 135 pounds at 6 o'clock. A crowd of about 2,500 witnessed the contest, which was held in the huge skating rink here. The ring was pitched in the centre of a large field of ice, and the spectators sat with their feet on boards that covered the congested water. A cold, penetrating dampness made it very uncomfortable for the spectators, many of whom nicknamed the place "Pneumonia Hall."

Because of the big sale of seats for next Monday's boxing show at the Casino, the Emblem A. C. has decided to put on another preliminary. Battling Kunz of South Norwalk will meet Willie Condon of the Acorn A. C. in a four round affair. Kunz has always made a good showing here and Condon is a clever boy. Recently Kunz beat Frankie Mack to a draw in Norwalk.



BATTILING KUNZ.

Young McAuliffe and Kid Ghetto, who mingle in a ten round session, are in the fettle and the fans are assured of a lively contest. Red Allen and Tommy Shea of New Haven will be seen in a six round preliminary.

Gilbert Gallant is training faithfully at Chelsea, Mass., for his 15 round encounter with Harry Pierce, the Brooklyn slugger. Martin Julian, Pierce's manager writes as follows: "When Harry Pierce and Gilbert

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